

Question #2 submitted by committee member Lott:

2) In the proposal the scope of practice applying staples and skin adhesives has been proposed. Do current surgical technology students receive education in placement of staples and adhesives on an incision? If so, how long has this been taught? If not, what type of education will be developed for surgical technologists who did not receive those procedures in their education?

The proper application of skin adhesives as well as skin staples is currently part of the 6th Edition of the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology which is required to be taught in accredited surgical technology programs. Specifically this information can be found on page 133 of the Core Curriculum in relation to skin adhesives and on page 135 in relation to skin staples. Any surgical technologist who is a graduate of an accredited surgical technology program has received training in these areas as these skills have been a part of the core curriculum since the 3rd edition which has a copyright date of 1990 – all stapling devices including skin staples and adhesives have been a part of the core curriculum since the 3rd edition. In December 1972 the American Medical Association's (AMA) Council on Medical Education adopted the recommended educational standards for the field of surgical technology and the Accreditation Review Committee on education in Surgical Technology (ARC/STSA) was formed which is the committee within CAAHEP that works specifically with surgical technology programs. The specialized accreditation of programs in surgical technology began in 1974, implementing standards of compliance that were developed by the collaborating organizations the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST).

The Board of Directors of the Association of Surgical Technologists adopted a position statement on skin approximation of the surgical wound with staples by the CST and CSFA in April 2008 which states the following:

Adopted BOD April 2008

Updated BOD January 2013

**Position Statement Skin Approximation of the Surgical Wound
with Staples by the CST and CSFA**

Skin staples are the most frequently employed method of skin closure due to their many advantages, including reducing tissue reaction, decreasing operative and anesthesia time, and providing uniform tension along the surgical wound. The use and applications of the various stapling devices are included in the didactic studies of the surgical technology and surgical assistant student. Additionally, surgical technology students demonstrate knowledge of operation of the skin stapler in the lab/mock operating room setting and during clinical rotation. The surgical assistant student demonstrates knowledge of use of the forceps to evert the skin layer to facilitate the placement of the staples in the lab/mock operating room setting and during clinical rotation. Upon graduation, the surgical technologist and surgical assistant practitioner apply these skills on a daily basis.

Therefore, it is the position of AST that the individual, who has attained the credential of CST, has the knowledge and experience to perform the task of operating the skin stapler, for the purpose of wound approximation to contribute to quality surgical patient outcomes. Additionally, the individual, who has attained the credential of CSFA, has the knowledge and experience to facilitate the closure of the skin layer by proper handling of the tissue with forceps.